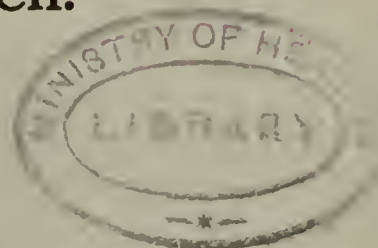


Budleigh Salterton
Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

For 1925

OF THE

VITAL STATISTICS, SANITARY WORK, &c.,

BY

CLARENCE BEESLEY, D.P.H., (Camb.), &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

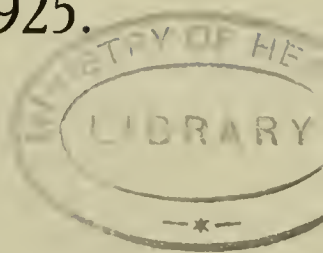
REDVERS,
EXMOUTH,

March 22nd, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Budleigh Salterton Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1925, dealing with the Sanitary Administration, Vital Statistics and other matters which have occupied your attention in connection therewith. This is a "Survey Report" and is more elaborate than the usual Annual Reports. The Ministry of Health directs that Survey Reports shall be presented every five years, and such Reports may properly vary with the size and character of the areas, *i.e.*, the Report upon a small Urban District will not contain so many details as one upon a large Town. The various headings are those recommended by the Ministry of Health and set out in the order prescribed.



Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, (in acres), 1,018.

Population, (Census 1921), 2,400. (Estimate 1925), 2,426.

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

Budleigh Salterton lies in a sheltered valley running south-south-east to the sea. The soil, gravel over red sandstone, dries up rapidly after rain. Fog is uncommon, and only from the sea. For particulars as a health resort and place for permanent residence, the *Official Guide* can be consulted. The chief occupation is fishing. Speaking generally, it is purely a residential district, being quiet and restful, with abundant sunshine and fresh gentle breezes. There is a fine golf course, plenty of tennis, cricket and fishing (river or sea). Hunting, too, can be had.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 730. In 1925, 809.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 800.

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate, £22,482 and £89 respectively.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS. 17 births were registered during the year, 5 males and 12 females, the birthrate per 1,000 being 7.0, as compared with 11.4 per 1,000 in 1924, and 18.3 for England and Wales.

DEATHS. 39 deaths occurred, 16 being males and 23 females, producing a deathrate of 16.0 per 1,000, as compared with 15.5 in 1924, and 12.2 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY. One infant (legitimate) died under the age of one year, the infant mortality therefore being 58.8 per 1,000 births, as compared with 75 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

Amount of Poor Law Relief. The amount of Poor Law relief expended for the year ending December 31st, 1925, was £253 14s. 0d.

No Causes of Sickness or invalidity have been specially noteworthy in the area, nor have any conditions of occupation or environment appeared to have had a prejudicial effect on the public health.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There is a well-equipped Cottage Hospital in the District, with ten beds. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

An Ambulance is available for non-infectious and accident cases. Infectious cases are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital (distant 11 miles), the ambulance being provided by the Hospital Authorities.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in the area.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : C. Beesley, D.P.H., (Camb.), &c., also acting as Medical Officer of Health to the Exmouth Urban District Council, and to the Exeter Port Sanitary Authority.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : J. B. Holden, Mem : M. & Cy. E. : Associate M.R. San. Inst.

No arrangements—subsidised by the County Council or

the Local Authority—exist for providing professional nursing in the Home for General or Infectious Diseases, but the District Nursing Association (supported by voluntary contributions) renders valuable service to the sick poor.

MIDWIVES. Under the control of the Devon County Council, one trained Midwife practises in the District.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE. The following Acts have been adopted by the Council and are in force within the District :

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1899.

„ „ (Prevention) „ 1890.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Parts I., III., IV., V.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. Part III.

Local Government Act, 1894. Sect. 33.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Part II., (except Sect. 23), Parts III., IV., VI., and
Secs. 82, 83 and 92.

The Health Resorts and Watering Places Act, 1921.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The District possesses an abundant supply of pure potable water, derived from the three sources, viz., Flagstaff, Sherbrook and Well Spring (Kersbrook). Analysed twice yearly, the Public Analyst's report is invariably satisfactory, and there is an absence of liability to plumbo-solvent action. Results of last analyses are appended herewith.

“ I have to report that a highly satisfactory degree of
“ purity is maintained in each of the three samples.”

	FLAGSTAFF	SHERBROOK Well Spring	SHERBROOK
Chlorine as Chlorides ...	3.5	4.1	5.1
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ...	0	0	0
Nitrogen (Nitrates) ...	0.4	0.2	0.4
Total Hardness ...	24.0	5.6	4.2
Temporary „ ...	20.9	2.3	0.7
Permanent „ ...	3.1	3.3	3.5
Saline Ammonia ...	0.0	0.0	0.0
Albuminoid „ ...	0.0	0.0046	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 80°F	0	0.195	0.105
Metals (Lead, C'p'r, Zinc, Iron)	0	0	0
Total Solid Constituents ...	14.4	18.4	15.4

The supply is drawn from wells at Kersbrook and is pumped direct into three service Reservoirs, the area being divided into three according to level, *i.e.*, high, middle and level. The supply is ample and constant, having been maintained throughout all periods of drought. With the exception of about two cottages, the whole of the houses in the area are supplied directly off the Service mains. New machinery was put in at the Pumping Station in 1923 to meet the increased demand, and a new 6-inch supply main, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, was brought from the Reservoir to the town to increase the supply and meet extra demands. Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Service mains have been laid to meet new developments.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No evidence of any pollution.

SEWERAGE. As the Town was re-sewered in 1912 and a new outfall constructed, the only recent development has been to lay approximately 900 yds. lin. of new Sewer to link up new areas of development.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL. A complete inspection has been made with regard to ash bins and all houses

will shortly be in possession of a Sanitary Bin. Refuse is collected twice weekly. A new "dump" has been made on the Saltings and all tins, bottles, etc., are taken there and buried, mostly below high water mark.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. All houses in the area are connected to sewage system and have regular W.C's. on the premises. There are twelve houses and cottages which have either a septic tank or earth closet accommodation. Each of these premises is in an isolated position and no part of the sewage system is available. As the sewers are extended these places are being picked up, four having been connected during the past year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Inspections.</i>
Slaughter houses	2	18. Conditions generally good.
Milk Shops, Dairies and Cow Sheds	10	15. No formal notice has been required. All necessary cleaning and limewashing done on request.
Bakehouses	3	9. All are in good order.
Common Lodging Houses	None.	
Offensive Trades	None.	
Pig Styes.	All are well away from any houses and are generally kept as clean as possible.	

SCHOOLS. The Church Schools are of modern construction and well found with regard to water and sanitation. They are disinfected during the holidays.

DUST BINS. A complete inspection of the District has been made and Notices are being served where no sanitary bins exist, calling on the owner to provide same. At present many houses have an old box or other uncovered receptacle ; the danger arising from such makeshifts have been commented upon in previous Reports, and need no repetition here.

Housing.

In common with the rest of the Country, there has been a shortage of houses in the past, but this state of affairs is being rapidly remedied. 28 new houses have been erected during the year, of which 12 are cottages under the Private Builders' Subsidy Scheme and are for working class tenants. 11 houses were put in order under Sec. 3, (1925) Act, 6 after informal notice, and 5 after notice requiring the work to be done, and in all cases the work was carried out satisfactorily by the Owners.

FITNESS OF HOUSES. The general standard of housing in the District compares favourably with other similar areas. In a few cases overcrowding may be present, but certainly not to any alarming extent, and the measures which are being taken to meet the shortage of houses, will—I feel sure—eliminate any overcrowding which may exist. The usual defects found on inspection included :—

Roofs. Tiles or slates loose or broken, defective gutters or rain water pipes.

Walls. Defective plaster—internal or external,—dirty or loose wallpapers.

Ceilings. Plaster falling off in patches.

Floors. So rough as to be difficult to keep clean.

Windows. Perished or rotten frames and sashes.

Cupboards. Insufficient.

Grates, Stoves. Broken, ovens cracked, fire bars missing.

Owners of property sometimes overlook the fact that small defects, if dealt with promptly, may be repaired at slight cost, whereas, if neglected, they may cause serious unfitness, and become expensive to remedy. However, it is extremely difficult to say how far defects are due to lack of management and supervision by the owners, or neglect and sometimes wilful damage by tenants. Each case should be and is determined on its merits.

Unhealthy Areas. No complaints have been received or representations made in regard to unhealthy areas.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts		12
1. <i>Unfit dwelling-houses.</i>		
(2) Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under Regulations of 1910 or 1925		18
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	none	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitat'n		11
2. <i>Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers		6
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>		
A.—Proceedings under sec. 3 of Housing Act, 1925.		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...		5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

A. By owners...	...	...	...	5
B. By Local Authority in default of owners				nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative ... none

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... none

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 ... none

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(A). MILK SUPPLY. There were no complaints of dirty or adulterated milk. The Dairies and Cowsheds were regularly inspected ; utensils used for the storage and distribution of the commodity were always found clean, but some of the Cowsheds are certainly not up to modern standards. Instructions were given as to the necessity for cleanliness of the hands, etc., of the milkers.

(i). No action was taken as to tuberculous milk and cattle.

(ii). No licences were granted for the sale of milk under special designations [Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923].

(B). MEAT. Meat inspection is strictly practised, and any condemned part is buried. Shops are fitted with windows, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are enforced as far as practicable.

Number of Private Slaughterhouses in the Area.

	In 1920	In January, 1925	In December, 1925
Registered	—	—	—
Licensed	2	2	2
Total	2	2	2

(c). There are no Underground Bakehouses, and the three Bakehouses in the District were regularly inspected and always found to be in a satisfactory state.

Prevalance of—and Control over—Infectious Disease.

During the years 1920-1925 inclusive, 30 cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were reported, viz. :—

Chicken Pox	11	Scarlatina	9	Diphtheria	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	1			Poliomyelitis	1
Puerperal Fever	1	Typhoid	1	Paratyphoid	1

No fatal cases occurred among this series.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is always available, and in the case of necessitous patients is supplied gratuitously.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations of specimens are conducted in Exeter, by the Public Analyst, appointed by the Devon County Council.

Under an agreement with the Exeter City Council, infectious cases are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital by motor ambulance (distant about 11 miles). Infected premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Staff, under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, houses in which cancer has occurred being subjected to the same process. Owners are recouped for any damage done to clothes, bedding, etc. The School intimations of disease which I receive are of great use in enabling me to ascertain the nature and amount of non-notifiable disease in the area, and they are sent without undue delay.

Notifiable Disease (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	nil	nil	nil
Scarlatina	...	...	2	2	nil
Diphtheria	...	...	nil	nil	nil
Enteric Fever		...	"	"	"
Puerperal „	...	...	"	"	"
Pneumonia	...	...	"	"	"
Chicken Pox	...	...	"	"	"

Tuberculosis during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'n'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'n'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15								
20		1						
25		1						
35								
45	2							
55				1				
Totals	2	2						

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.*

No action has been necessary under these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action taken under this Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

None in the District, and scarcely necessary in such a small area.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.			Vision impaired.	Vision Unimpaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Treated.					
	At home	In Hospital				
<u>Notified</u>						
None	None	None				
			None	None	None	None

A Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, is appended, together with a Table showing the Causes of Death, etc.

In conclusion, I think that the District will favourably compare with other similar Areas for these reasons :—

1. The absence of any serious Epidemic of dangerous disease.
2. The relative infrequency and mild character of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases.
3. The general progress of Sanitation.
4. The way in which the shortage of Artisans' Dwellings has been dealt with.

My best thanks are due to the Clerk [Mr. Hill] and the Surveyor [Mr. Holden] for the help they have given me in the compilation of this Report, and to the Council for the courtesy invariably accorded to me.

Your obedient Servant,

C. BEESLEY,

Med. Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Factories—

Inspections, 2.	Written Notices, 0.	Prosecutions, 0.
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Workshops—

Inspections, 4.	Written Notices, 0.	Prosecutions, 0.
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Workplaces—

Inspections, 2.	Written Notices, 0.	Prosecutions, 0.
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Total number of Inspections ... 6.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—

Want of Cleanliness, nil.

Sanitary Accommodation unsuitable or defective, nil.

Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—

Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses, none.

C. BEESLEY, M.O.H.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT, 1925.

			M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	16	23
Influenza	...	...	—	3
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	3	3
Diabetes	...	...	1	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	—	3
Heart disease	...	...	3	6
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	1	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	1	—
Deaths from violence	...	...	—	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	5	4
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	—	1
Total deaths of Infants under 1 year			1	—
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	5	12
Legitimate	...	...	5	12
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—
POPULATION	...	...	...	2,426

